

Minutes of the Leeds Board held on 22 March 2018 at Church House, 17/19 York Place, Leeds LS1 2EX.

Present:

The Rt Revd Nick Baines (Chair), The Ven Paul Ayers, Mr Simon Baldwin, Mrs Marilyn Banister, Major Geoffrey Berry, Ms Kay Brown, The Revd Canon Simon Cowling, The Ven Dr Anne Dawtry, Mrs Jane Evans, The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Gibbs, The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley, The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, The Ven Andy Jolley, Mr Andrew Maude, Canon Ann Nicholl, Mrs Jane Wardman and The Revd Nigel Wright.

In Attendance:

Mr Ashley Ellis, Mrs Debbie Child, Mrs Judith Calvert, Mr Peter Foskett, The Revd Canon Andrew Norman, Mr Chris Tate, Mr Geoff Park and Ms Alison Bogle.

1. Opening prayers.

The Rt Revd Toby Howarth led the opening prayers.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Bishop of Leeds opened the meeting and welcomed Mr Geoff Park, Chief Finance Officer.

Apologies had been received from Bishop Paul Slater, Dean John Dobson, The Revd Canon Tony Macpherson, Archdeacon Peter Townley, Archdeacon Bev Mason and The Rt Revd Tony Robinson.

3. Declarations of interest.

The members were reminded to disclose any conflicts of interest concerning any items on the Agenda.

None were disclosed.

4. Minutes of the Leeds Board held on 23 January 2018.

A copy of the draft minutes of the Leeds Board held on the 23 January 2018 had been circulated to members.

The minutes were approved with no amendments.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting on 23 January 2018.

Item 10 Dioceses Re-organisation Review meeting report - Bishop Nick would be following up the reply to his letter.

Item 11 Joint Venture Arrangements update – Bishop Toby reported that the Joint Venture was progressing well but completion was dependent on the time it took to get the new charity up and running.

The Chair asked if there were any matters which were to be kept confidential/redacted from publication on the diocesan website.

There were no redactions.

6. Financial Update.

A copy of the Parish Share reports to 31.1.18 and 28.2.18 and a Finance Report had been circulated to members. Geoff Park presented this item and a discussion followed.

The 2017 outturn showed a significant **cash** deficit of £3.133m. There had been investment gains in the year but the total movement of funds was a reduction of £254k.

For 2018, there had been a positive start to the year with Parish Share payments higher than at the same time in 2017. The cash position of the diocese was an urgent priority. The cash forecast was being reviewed weekly and it was likely that share investments would need to be sold to fund the deficit. Property transactions are having a significant impact on cash flow. The Property Director and Archdeacons were to meet with Geoff to discuss the approach to the purchase and sales of diocesan properties.

The Finance Advisory Group was not currently meeting but a review of its terms of reference and membership was in hand. Geoff explained that the intention was to move to a Finance, Assets and Investments Advisory Committee with Irving Warnett, (a former director of PWC and Board member of Opera North) as independent chair. More details of the proposals would be brought to the next Board meeting. In the interim, Geoff and Debbie were dealing with financial issues. Geoff, Debbie and Irving would meet in April and members of the Financial Advisory group would be invited to attend.

7. Motions from Inner Bradford deanery – revised.

Revised motions to Diocesan Synod from the Inner Bradford deanery synod had been circulated to the Leeds Board members. Ashley spoke to this item. The new wording had been considered by the General Synod office and had been approved by the deanery. After discussion, the Board approved the new motions to be included in the next Diocesan Synod agenda. The Board asked that the deanery were made aware that there could be formal amendments submitted to the motions by the Synod members.

8. Minutes of the meeting of the Episcopal Areas Mission and Pastoral Committees for noting.

Draft minutes from the Bradford EAMPC, Huddersfield EAMPC and Ripon EAMPC had been made available to the board members on the Diocesan website. These were for noting only. There were no questions from the Board members.

9. Diocesan Mission and Pastoral reports.

Judith Calvert presented this item.

An annual Mission and Pastoral Report and a copy of the Leeds Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee constitution had been circulated to the Board members. Judith reported that the number of closed churches and church closures continued to increase. There was a high annual

turnover of members of the AMPCs, which resulted in a lack of continuity, knowledge and expertise. The Constitution of the DMPC provided for a review of the membership of the Area Mission and Pastoral Committees once every three years. Judith proposed that the constitution of the DMPC to include terms of reference for the AMPCs and Closed Churches Task Group to be brought to the DMPC for consideration and if approved to go to Diocesan Synod for approval.

Judith reported that five Mission and Pastoral cases had received adverse representations during the previous year. The adverse representation process included questions from the Church Commissioners about the process. There were three recurring generic questions which the Board noted:

- 1 *What were the main reasons for proposing....*
- 2 *Please set out the consultation process followed, indicating any meetings held with the interested parties. Please confirm the level of support, or otherwise, for what was being proposed during the local consultation process and how concerns raised during that stage were addressed.*
- 3 *Please outline how these proposals have regard to the provision of the cure of souls in the diocese as a whole and further the mission of the Church in this area?*

In small groups, the Board then considered the questions which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

“Bearing in mind the functions and duties of a Mission and Pastoral Committee (see overleaf):

1. *How can a consistent and coherent approach be achieved across all the AMPCs?
Is this necessary?*
2. *How can the AMPCs share good practice?*
3. *What information do DMPC/AMPC/CCTG members need to help them carry out their responsibilities?*
4. *The DMPC is required to review the membership of the AMPCs every three years. What can be done to encourage a more settled membership over the triennium?”*

Feedback from the small groups’ discussions was given which included:

- It was important that there was consistency and coherence as DMPC and AMPCs were exercising a statutory responsibility – this will need to be reviewed. Presentations from the Episcopal Areas to the Board and the rationales being applied by the AMPCs being supplied to the DMPC would assist this.
- Diocesan training days for new AMPC members would be useful. These could include both M&P training and information about the diocesan strategy.
- AMPCs need to be able to retain their distinctiveness
- A guidance leaflet for members would be useful covering responsibilities and processes.

10. Diocesan Strategy update.

A Diocesan Strategy Updated document had been tabled. Jane Evans gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining changes made to the Strategy document, which now incorporated feedback from the Leeds Board and three enabling groups. The strategy proposal had been distilled in to five goals with an overarching goal of “thriving as a large diocese”. The Strategy Group was to meet to finalise the proposal and then it would be submitted to the Board for approval. The Board gave feedback on the current draft of the proposal. Board members encouraged to email further thoughts and comments to the group.

Strategic Development Funding

A document “Strategic Development Funding: 2nd bid from Diocese of Leeds April 2018” had been tabled. Debbie explained that the proposal was for an April 2018 First Stage bid. The work included in the bid related to achieving the Diocese’s strategic goals and proposed a city centre resource church and missional communities in the Bradford EA, plus a plan to revitalise Holy Trinity Boar Lane in the Leeds EA. The Board discussed the proposal and gave approval in principle for the bid to be pursued.

11. Any other business.

11.1 Safeguarding and HR report

A Safeguarding and HR document March 2018 had been circulate to the Board members. These reports were noted. It was agreed that Safeguarding be a standing item on the Leeds Board agenda to enable the Board members to be briefed and to ask questions.

11.2 Company Secretary

Ashley Ellis would resign as Company Secretary from 29 March 2018 (Maundy Thursday). It was noted that Debbie Child (as Diocesan Secretary) would automatically become Company Secretary under the provision of Article 11.3 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

11.3 Ashley reported that the Board had previously passed a resolution (the Relationship Authority) authorising certain individuals (described as Main Signatories) to exercise a range of powers in respect of the Company’s dealings with the Bank [NatWest].

The Board resolved unanimously that the Company would change the individuals’ named as Main Signatories in the Relationship Authority and that:

- Deborah Child and Geoff Park are authorised to exercise the powers set out in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 of the Relationship Authority.
- Paul Hooper and Ashley Ellis were no longer authorised to exercise the powers set out in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 of the Relationship Authority.
- The authority of any other Main Signatories not referred to in this resolution is unaffected by this resolution.

11.4 The meeting was Ashley Ellis’s last Leeds Board meeting before he left the diocese. Ashley was thanked for his faithfulness and service to both the diocese of Wakefield and diocese of Leeds.

12. Close.

The Bishop closed the meeting in prayer.